

nose turret shot off, and the wounded and dead airmen arranged on the ground covered in sheets. Hard sight for a 19-year-old airman to absorb," Barnes said in Helen's written history.

Barnes' first mission was May 18, 1944, where his squadron was assigned to bomb a Romanian oil refinery. Barnes weighed only 125 pounds, and as the smallest member of the crew he was assigned to the ball turret on this and subsequent missions. Barnes would fly on four missions over the Ploesti oil refineries, as it produced a major amount of the fuel for the German military. Barnes said they were the toughest missions, as the refineries were heavily defended with "flak so thick you could walk on it" and enemy fighters menacing the bombers.

"I was pretty young. I'm 18 and I'm flying combat at 19," Barnes said.

Barnes flew regularly as he was able to fit into the cramped space of the ball turret, and due to this he racked up over 50 missions. According to Helen's written history: "On July 28, 1944, a Ploesti raid, we sent out 27 airplanes from our 756th Bomb Squadron and lost 14. My plane was badly shot up—elevators and ailerons gone and no control over the plane, just flying on automatic pilot. We all bailed out and fortunately it was over 'friendly' territory. The plane was lost, but the crew all survived. The emergency parachute jump earned me entrance into 'The Caterpillar Club,' awarded by Irving Air Chute Co."

Barnes said he thanked the Lord for bringing him through his missions unscathed and he prayed for the safety of the crew.

The Liberator would often have difficulty taking off due to its payload of 2,000-pound bombs. The aircraft would often skim the treetops on takeoff. It was cold in the plane due to the cruising altitude of 28,000 feet.

"More than once we came home on two engines," Barnes said. "On one occasion, with the brake system disabled, chutes were attached to the fuselage and deployed to slow down the landing speed."

Barnes' crew lost only one member, but as he was flying on a separate plane as part of a split crew, Barnes watched the other craft fall from the sky without any of the crew escaping.

"The army was good discipline, and it made a man out of me. I didn't have time to get a job or get into trouble," Barnes said in an interview with the BN-R.

Barnes said he has thought of the toll of the war he fought in, as well as the wars of today, and how war has never stopped being a tragedy.

Barnes received a Good Conduct medal, and Air medal with two clusters, and Army Air Force Pres. Unit with gold frame and two clusters, an Army Air medal with two clusters and a European Air Force MidEast medal with six Bronze Stars. Upon completing 51 missions on August 7, 1944, Barnes was scheduled to return to the U.S. for reassignment. After a two-week voyage back to the U.S. by a Navy ship, Barnes was moved about the country for about a year teaching mostly Aircraft Recognition. He was honorably discharged on September 10, 1945 and returned to Boone. Barnes enlisted in the National Guard upon returning home, and his military career ended with a medical discharge due to allergies three years later.

Barnes used the GI Bill to study pre-engineering at Boone Junior College. He received his degree in 1948 and was recruited by Iowa Electric Power Co. where he worked as an electrician and meter man until his retirement in 1984. Barnes has always been interested in technology and repaired television sets in his home from 1967 until the present.

Barnes will be aboard the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. on August 19.

I commend Kenny Barnes for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SMEED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the liberty movement lost one of its true champions on September 7, 2010 when Ralph Smeed passed away from pancreatic cancer. "Making Statism Unpopular," was not just the title of Ralph's website but the focus of all his efforts as a political activist, columnist, think tank leader, and supporter of numerous pro-liberty organizations and causes. Without Ralph's efforts, the movement to make statism unpopular would not be nearly as strong as it is today. I am honored that I was among the hundreds of freedom-lovers who were able to call Ralph a friend.

Ralph was born in Caldwell, Idaho in 1921. His family was in the ranching and meatpacking business. His first experience with what he referred to as the "mindless government bureaucracy" occurred when he attempted to register for military service after Pearl Harbor and was informed that he could not volunteer, he had to wait till he was drafted!

Following his military service, Ralph entered into the family business, becoming the manager in 1949. As a small businessman, Ralph had even more experiences with "mindless government bureaucracy," and useless government rules and regulations. Ralph's first hand experiences and his study of the freedom philosophy lead him to become active in efforts to try to change the direction of the country.

Ralph's interest in, and knowledge of, the freedom philosophy was enhanced by his association with the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), the nation's first free-market educational institution. Ralph attended a FEE seminar in 1965, where he met Leonard Read, the founder and President of FEE. Ralph was an enthusiastic supporter of FEE's mission to popularize the ideas of liberty and he worked closely with FEE, eventually serving as a member of FEE's Board of Trustees. Just recently, Ralph was involved in a special reprinting of Leonard Read's classic essay "I, Pencil."

One of the traits that made Ralph a great leader was that whenever he saw a task that needed to be done, or any opportunity to advance liberty that no one else in the freedom movement was taking advantage of; he would simply roll up his sleeves and do it himself. For example, in the early 1970s, there were not that many opinion writers providing an analysis of the events of the day from a pro-liberty perspective. Seeing this void, Ralph launched a successful career as a columnist in 1974. Years before it became commonplace to find free-market think tanks operating at the state and local level, Ralph started a public policy and education foundation, the Center for the Study of Market Alternatives. When the growth of the Internet opened up new opportu-

nities to promote the freedom message, Ralph not only supported the efforts of free-market institutions to establish a web presence, he established his own site.

Ralph served as a friend and mentor to many in the freedom movement. For example, he copublished a newsletter with Steve Symms, who went on to serve in Congress and the Senate. Ralph remained a close friend and adviser to Steve through his political career. The late Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hague and former U.S. Representative and current Idaho Governor Butch Otter also benefited from Ralph's friendship and counsel. In recent years, Ralph has been recognized as the philosophical godfather of the Idaho Tea Party movement. Fortunately, Ralph's influence over the freedom movement will continue thanks to the Internet and a collection of his essays that soon will be published.

As a writer, scholar, and activist for liberty, Ralph fought many ideological and political battles. Yet even Ralph's fiercest ideological opponents never had a bad word to say about him. This is because Ralph was something one rarely comes across in politics: a genuinely nice guy. Ralph had perhaps one of the best senses of humor of anyone I have ever known, and while he was quick to criticize anyone, regardless of position, power, or long-standing friendship, who was taking a course Ralph saw as detrimental to liberty, he never resorted to personal attacks.

Madam Speaker, as I reflect on the impact Ralph Smeed had on the freedom movement, I cannot help but feel sorry for those freedom lovers who will never have the benefit of Ralph's friendship, wise counsel, and wickedly delightful sense of humor. I can only hope that all of us who knew Ralph as a friend will honor his memory by taking advantage of every available opportunity to continue Ralph's work of "Making Statism Unpopular."

HONORING THE CELEBRATION OF SAN JOSE JAPANTOWN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th Anniversary of San Jose's Japantown, located at the heart of my Congressional district and only a few short blocks from my district office.

At one time, there were 43 different Japantowns in California. Today, only 3 distinct and recognizable ones remain. San Jose's Japantown has escaped the fate of most of California's Japantowns and continues to thrive. It has grown beyond a strictly Japanese-American enclave into a community that has embraced Hawaiian, Cuban, Mexican and numerous other groups. Our Japantown is thriving due in large part to its openness to other cultures and the welcoming nature of Silicon Valley, San Jose in particular.

San Jose's Japantown was originally formed around the existing "Heinlenville" Chinatown settlement. During the Second World War the Japanese-American population was forcibly removed from Japantown and interned in camps. After the war many Japanese Americans resettled in the area after returning from internment camps in World War II.